

SERBIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS  
INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

# BALCANICA

## XLVI

ANNUAL OF THE INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

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BELGRADE  
2015



of the threat that the Bulgarian national aims posed to both sides and to their mutual support regarding the territorial status in the Balkan Peninsula created by the Balkan Wars and the Treaty of Bucharest (1913). Cooperation between the two states in the subsequent years reinforced the prevailing notion of traditional and undisturbed Greek-Serbian friendship. In reality, according to Hassiotis, things were much more complicated. It is true that the alliance became a priority for the political leaderships in Serbia and Greece, but political rivalries both between them and

within them brought this option more than once to a deadlock and to apparent diplomatic shifts. Serbian and Greek propaganda activities are indicative of these contradictions. In the final analysis, the author of this interesting study attempts, and largely succeeds, to interpret the development of Greek-Serbian relations in a realistic context determined by international and regional geopolitical factors and by internal political antagonisms in two neighbouring, closely interconnected countries.

*PRVI SVJETSKI RAT – UZROCI I POSLJEDICE* [FIRST WORLD WAR – CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES], EDS. DRAGO BRANKOVIĆ AND NIKOLA B. POPOVIĆ. BANJA LUKA: AKADEMIJA NAUKA I UMJETNOSTI REPUBLIKE SRPSKE, 2014, 528 p.

*Reviewed by Goran Latinović\**

The centenary of the Great War in 2014 was commemorated by various events, conferences, research projects and ceremonies around the globe. One such conference took place in Banja Luka, the administrative capital of the Serbian entity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the aegis of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of the Republic of Srpska. Held on 30 and 31 May 2014, it was the most important scholarly gathering addressing topics about the Great War in the entity in 2014. The Academy published the collection of twenty-nine papers submitted by the participants of the conference. The volume is in Serbian, but every paper is furnished with a summary in English, with one French exception.

The book begins with a Foreword (pp. 9–10) and several photos taken during the conference (pp. 11–12), followed by an introduction to the topic by Rajko Kuzmanović (pp. 15–22), Drago Branković (pp. 23–28) and Nikola B. Popović (pp. 29–34), all of them drawing

attention to the First World War as the major history topic in 2014. Popović particularly emphasises the growing, politically motivated, tendency towards using unscholarly methodological approaches, which necessarily leads to the production of pseudo-scholarly books on the Great War. Dušan Berić (pp. 35–66) discusses the German *Drang nach (Süd-)Osten* and the question of responsibility for the First World War, while Boro Bronza (pp. 67–83) writes about the aspects of the continuity of Austrian expansive policy in the Balkans in 1683–1914. Galib Šljivo (pp. 85–114) gives an overview of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the beginning of the twentieth century, and Dušan Bataković (pp. 115–143) contributes one of the most instructive articles in the volume. His text on external and internal challenges Serbia was facing on the eve of the First World War, based on a

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wide range of sources, convincingly demonstrates that official Serbia, after the Balkan Wars 1912–13, by no means wanted a new war, especially not against Austria-Hungary. He concurs with Franz Fischer's view put forward in the 1960s that Germany pushed the world into the abyss of war by supporting Austria-Hungary.

Aleksej Timofejev (pp. 145–158) sheds light on Russian interest in the Balkans on the eve of the First World War. Milan Balaban (pp. 159–166) gives an overview of Czech public opinion in 1914, while Goran Vasin (pp. 167–178) does the same for the public opinion of the Serbian population in Austria-Hungary. Goran Latinović (pp. 179–186) analyses some perceptions by Western historians and popular history writers of the assassination in Sarajevo in 1914. Slobodan Šoja (pp. 187–209) discusses the Yugoslav youth in Austria-Hungary at the beginning of the twentieth century, while Dragiša D. Vasić (pp. 211–234) gives an account of the anti-Serb demonstrations and violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1914, illustrated by contemporary (1914) photographic material. He shows that the violence was apparently instigated, encouraged and controlled by clerical and military factors as the first stage in the Austro-Hungarian aggressive policy of breaking down the Serbian national movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Borivoje Milošević (pp. 241–253) examines the position of the Sokol movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war, and Dragan Šućur (pp. 255–273) looks into the tribulation suffered by the Serbian Orthodox clergy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His well-documented paper, to which a list of the murdered priests and their photographs is appended, explains why Austria-Hungary came down so brutally on the Orthodox clergy, perceiving them as a major bearer of Serbian identity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Janko Ramač (pp. 277–290) contributes a paper on the Ruthenians/Ukrainians in Austria-Hungary during the war, while Ostoja Djukić (pp. 291–309) offers a philosophical discussion of the ethics and revolutionary zeal of Young Bosnia (*Mlada Bosna*). Several papers that follow – Slobodan Remetić (pp. 311–318), Rajko Petrov Nogo (pp. 319–333), Staniša Tutnjević (pp. 335–347) and Dragan Hamović (pp. 349–361) – discuss issues of language and literature, notably poetry.

Tijana Šurlan (pp. 363–382) deals with the international law approach to the crimes committed during the First World War, while Vladimir Umeljic (pp. 383–412) seeks to establish a relationship between the “theory of definitivism” and revisionism with special reference to the redefining of the responsibility for the war. Nikola Žutić (pp. 413–436) addresses the question of English public opinion about the Serbian “guilt” for the Great War. Ivana Krstić Mistrđzelović (pp. 437–463) analyses Archibald Reiss's inquiries into the Bulgarian crimes in occupied Serbia 1915–1918, while Zdrava Stojanović (pp. 465–484) discusses the Serbian conception of the solution to the Yugoslav question during the war. Vojislav Pavlović (pp. 485–498) looks at the Yugoslav programme of the Serbian government but with reference to the French plans in the Balkans. Čedomir Antić (pp. 499–504) deals with the Page-Tyrrell Memorandum of 1916 and, finally, Zoltan Djere (505–528) presents Hungarian views on the question of nationalities in Hungary.

The participants in the conference and authors of the published articles looked at various aspects of the causes and consequences of the First World War. Although predominantly history-oriented, the conference had a multidisciplinary character, covering areas such as law, political science, literature, language, journalism, theology and military science.

Besides well-established scholars, whose participation certainly added weight to the conference, young scholars were also given the opportunity to present the results of their research. The resulting volume is a very useful read, but non-Serbian speakers will inevitably be limited to the summaries. The publisher might therefore

consider making an additional effort and either prepare an integral English edition or make a selection of the most important articles. Foreign scholars would certainly find even an abridged version useful for acquainting themselves with some Serbian views on the causes and consequences of the First World War.

JEAN-PAUL BLED, *L'AGONIE D'UNE MONARCHIE. AUTRICHE-HONGRIE 1914-1920*.  
PARIS: TALLANDIER, 2014, 464 p.

*Reviewed by* Veljko Stanić\*

In his recent essay "Austria-Hungary and the First World War" the distinguished British historian Alan Sked points out "two schools of thought regarding the role of the Habsburg Monarchy in the origins of the First World War". While one is traditionally focused on "the failure to implement domestic reforms ... as having forced it [Monarchy] in 1914 to go to war to prevent the 'nationality question' from destabilizing ... it from within", the other is rather preoccupied with the issues of foreign policy, especially in terms of "dynastic honour or prestige".<sup>1</sup> In a similar manner, the American historian John Deak denounces the old-fashioned historiography on Austria-Hungary inspired by Henry Wickham Steed, Robert William Seton-Watson, Louis Namier and Alan John Percivale Taylor describing it as a "Hegelian narrative in which the Habsburg Empire declines and collapses in order to give birth to a host of modern nation-states". More sympathetic to the Double Monarchy and inspired by a new research trend, Deak claims that "we must stop seeing the war in terms of liberation

and progress" and "focus our research and energies on what the process of arming, feeding, mobilizing and – especially, controlling the populace of Austria-Hungary actually destroyed". He therefore proposes a more careful examination of various aspects of Austria-Hungary's history in its last years which coincided with the First World War.<sup>2</sup> Undoubtedly, there is an important revival of Habsburg studies largely linked to the First World War that should be particularly welcomed.<sup>3</sup>

The book under review here clearly comes as a result of this renewed interest in the Habsburg Monarchy and the First World War. Its author, the renowned French historian Jean-Paul Bled is professor emeritus of the Uni-

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<sup>1</sup> Alan Sked, "Austria-Hungary and the First World War", *Histoire@Politique* (P.F.N.S.P), 2014/1, no. 2, 16–49.

<sup>2</sup> John Deak, "The Great War and the Forgotten Realm: The Habsburg Monarchy and the First World War", *The Journal of Modern History* 86 (June 2014), 336–380.

<sup>3</sup> Samuel R. Williamson Jr., "Austria and the Origins of the Great War: A Selective Historiographical Survey", in 1914, *Austria-Hungary, the Origins, and the First Year of World War I*, eds. Günter Bischof and Ferdinand Karlhofer, guest ed. Samuel R. Williamson, Jr., Contemporary Austrian Studies, vol. 23 (Innsbruck University Press, 2014), 21–33.